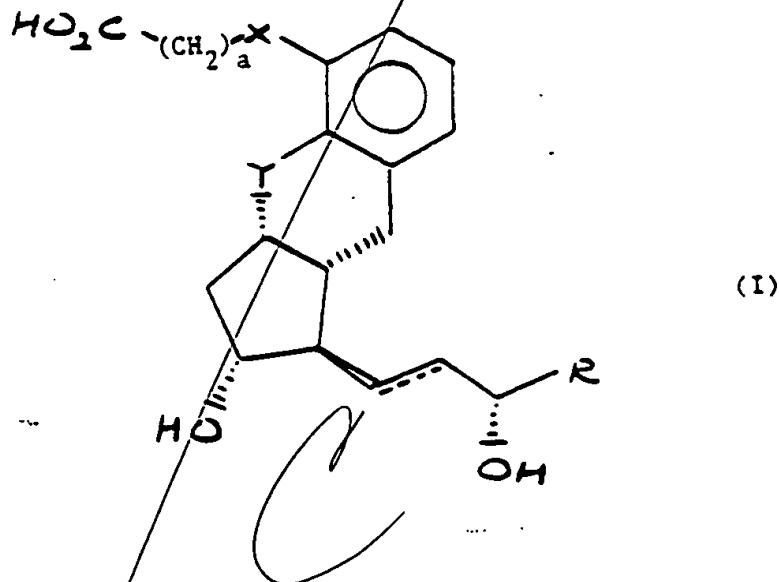


CLAIMS

1. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of pulmonary hypertension which comprises the administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



wherein a is an integer of from 1 to 3;

X and Y, which may be the same or different, are selected from -O- and -CH₂-;

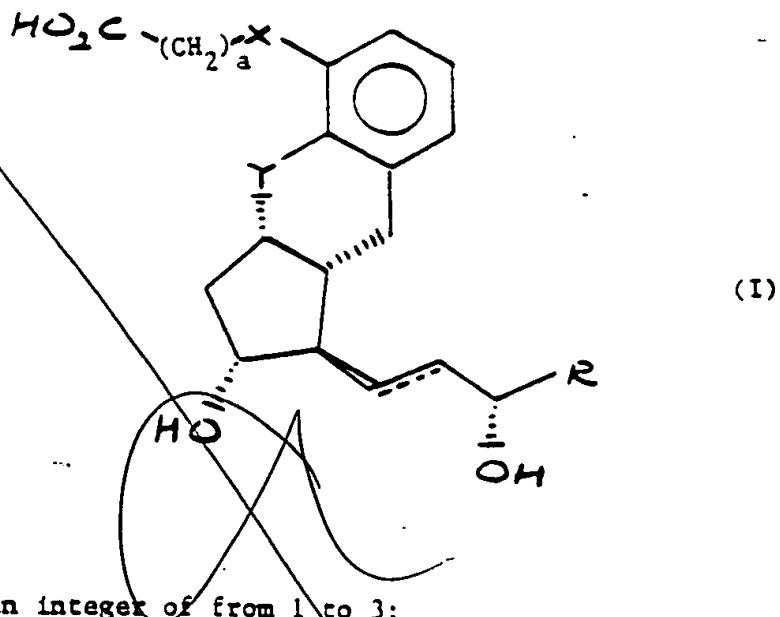
R is -(CH₂)₅R¹ wherein R¹ is hydrogen or methyl, or R is cyclohexyl, or

R is -CH(CH₃)CH₂C≡CCH₃; and

the dotted line represents an optional double bond;

or of a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof.

2. A method for the diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension which comprises the administration of a diagnostically effective amount of a compound of formula (I)



wherein a is an integer of from 1 to 3;

X and Y, which may be the same or different, are selected from -O- and -CH₂-;

R is -(CH₂)₅R¹ wherein R¹ is hydrogen or methyl, or R is cyclohexyl, or

R is -CH(CH₃)CH₂C≡CCH₃; and

the dotted line represents an optional double bond;

or of a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof.

3. Method according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is that wherein

Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$;

X is $-\text{O}-$;

R is $-(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CH}_3$.

4. Method according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is that wherein

Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$;

X is $-\text{O}-$;

R is $-(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CH}_3$.

5. Method according to claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) is 9-deoxy-2',9 α -methano-3-oxa-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)-13,14-dihydroprostaglandin F₁ or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative of either thereof.

6. Method according to claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (I) is 9-deoxy-2',9 α -methano-3-oxa-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)-13,14-dihydroprostaglandin F₁ or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof.

A diagnostic aid comprising a compound of formula (I) as described in claim 2, or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof, and one or more acceptable carriers and/or excipients, which is suitable for use in identifying PPH patients having active pulmonary vasoconstriction.

8. A diagnostic aid according to claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (I) is 9-deoxy-2',9 α -methano-3-oxa-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)-13,14-dihydroprostaglandin F₁ or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative of either thereof.

9. A diagnostic aid according to claim 8 which is adapted for intravenous administration or administration by transdermal iontophoresis.

B
Add